THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Various measures have been introduced by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to reduce delays in take off and landing of flights at major airports such as establishment of Clearance Delivery Position to enable pilots to expedite departures, introduction of Auto Release procedures to release the departures on standard routes upto a certain height for expeditious departures, starting the construction of new high speed exit and parallel taxiways to reduce the runway occupancy time and enable operations from both the runways, and initiating the upgradation of Air Traffic Control Automation System and installation of Advanced Surface Movement Guidance & Control System at Delhi and Mumbai airports. Besides, in order to reduce congestion in air for timely landing and take off, AAI has plans to introduce a system of Air Traffic Flow Management to enable the departures from airports other than Delhi and Mumbai.

(b) No, Sir. Delays are only during peak hours due to bunching of flights, especially for incoming flights.

(c) Short term steps include provision of additional taxi-tracks and parallel taxi ways.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) As mentioned at (a) above.

Immigration Counters at Airports

590. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that international passengers face delays of an average of one hour at immigration counters both on arrivals and departures;

(b) what is the problem in having more immigration desks and officers at peak hours;

(c) the details of the management problems involved in creating adequate immigration counters and placing more staff to reduce delays and harassment;

(d) whether it is a fact that immigration staff is also inefficient and cavalier in their work; and

(e) the steps proposed to sensitise such staff immediately to help passengers at airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Approximately 90-95% flights are cleared within 45 minutes which confirms to the time period stipulated in International Civil Aviation Organisation guidelines.

(b) and (c) Operation of more immigration desks involves more infrastructure, space and manpower. However, within existing infrastructure endeavour has always been made to man all immigration counters especially during bunching of flights at peak hours by dynamic deployment.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The officers are imparted adequate training including training on behaviourial aspects before their actual deployment.

Extension of Pantnagar Airport

†591. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttaranchal has made a request for the extension of the Pantnagar airport and also to start regular flights of the small airlines from there;

(b) if so, the details of the request received from the State Government;

(c) whether the Ministry have taken necessary steps for the extension of the said airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Government of Uttaranchal has offered additional land to develop Pantnagar airports in a phased manner, initially for 50-seater type of aircraft and subsequently for B-737-400 type of aircraft.

(c) and (d) The action has already been initiated by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to extend the runway from 3800 ft. to 4200 ft. and improve other facilities for operation of 50-seater type of aircraft.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.